

the energy crisis in the 1970s, during the Persian Gulf War, or during our current energy crisis, every American has felt the sting of our dependency on foreign oil. And I might add, Mr. President, that our dependency on foreign oil has steadily increased to the point where we now depend on foreign sources for more than 57 percent of our oil. Last month alone, it was over 60 percent. When enacted, the CLEAR Act will play a key role in helping our nation improve its energy security by increasing the diversity of our fuel options and decreasing our need for gasoline. Our nation's energy strategy will not be complete without an incentive to increase the use of alternative fuels and advanced car technologies.

Historically, consumers have faced three basic obstacles to accepting the use of alternative fuels and advanced technologies. These are the cost of the vehicles, the cost of alternative fuel, and the lack of an adequate infrastructure of alternative fueling stations. The CLEAR Act would lower all three of these barriers.

First, we provide a tax credit of 50 cents per gasoline-gallon equivalent for the purchase of alternative fuel at retail. To give customers better access to alternative fuel, we extend an existing deduction for the capital costs of installing alternative fueling stations. We also provide a 50 percent credit for the installation costs of retail and residential refueling stations.

Finally, we provide tax credits to consumers to purchase alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles. To make certain that the tax benefit we provide translates into a corresponding benefit to the environment, we split the vehicle tax credit into two. One part provides a base tax credit for the purchase of vehicles dedicated to the use of alternative fuel or vehicles using advanced technologies. The other part offers a bonus credit based on the vehicle's efficiency and reduction in emissions. In this way, we are confident that the CLEAR Act will provide the biggest possible "bang for the buck" in terms of providing a social benefit to our citizens.

We all recognize that in the future we will not use gasoline fueled vehicles to the same extent we do today. Our legislation is an attempt to bring benefits of cleaner air to our citizens sooner, to free our cities from expensive EPA regulations, and to reduce our consumption of foreign oil. S. 760 enables us to tackle these problems with incentives, not mandates.

Our proposal is the most comprehensive legislation ever brought before Congress to promote the use of alternative fuel vehicles and advanced car technologies among consumers. We urge our colleagues to join with us in this forward-looking approach to cleaner air and increased energy independence.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, April 24, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,681,673,830,247.36. Five trillion, six hundred eighty-one billion, six hundred seventy-three million, eight hundred thirty thousand, two hundred forty-seven dollars and thirty-six cents.

One year ago, April 24, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,711,906,000,000. Five trillion, seven hundred eleven billion, nine hundred six million.

Five years ago, April 24, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,110,704,000,000. Five trillion, one hundred ten billion, seven hundred four million.

Ten years ago, April 24, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,438,135,000,000. Three trillion, four hundred thirty-eight billion, one hundred thirty-five million.

Fifteen years ago, April 24, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$1,959,555,000,000. One trillion, nine hundred fifty-nine billion, five hundred fifty-five million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$3 trillion, \$3,722,118,830,247.36. Three trillion, seven hundred twenty-two billion, one hundred eighteen million, eight hundred thirty thousand, two hundred forty-seven dollars and thirty-six cents during the past 15 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING CENTRAL FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

• Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, this past weekend, twenty-two exceptional students from Central Falls High School in Rhode Island visited Washington to compete in the national finals of the "We The People . . . The Citizen And The Constitution" program, after finishing in first place in the Rhode Island competition. In fact, this is the fourth time that the Central Falls High School team has won the statewide competition!

For those of my colleagues who are not familiar with it, the "We The People . . . The Citizen And The Constitution" program is among the most extensive educational specifically to ensure that young people understand the history and philosophy of the Constitution and the Bill of rights. The three-day national competition simulates a congressional hearing in which students are given the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge while they evaluate, take, and defend positions on historical and contemporary constitutional issues.

Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the "We The People . . . The Citizen And The Constitution" program provide an excellent opportunity for students to gain an informed perspective on the significance of the U.S. Constitution and its place in our history. It is heartwarming to see young Rhode Islanders taking such an active and participatory interest in public affairs.

I am very proud of Gabriel Arias, Jorge Bolivar, Andrew Castillo, Karen Corrales, Johnathan DePina, Kinga Dobrzycki, Kayla England, Renee Fisher, Christina Garcia, Roseangel Gavidia, Karen Hurtado, Deborah Navarro, Jessica Pareja, Denisse Reyes, Erik Rua, Shirley Rua, Jesse Salazar, Janet Sanchez, Corey Stad, Monica Torres, Vladimir Uran, Sirabel Uran, for making it to the national finals. I congratulate this outstanding group of young men and women for their hard work and perseverance. Also, I want to applaud Jeff Schanck, a fine teacher who deserves so much credit for guiding the Central Falls High School team to the national finals.

Yesterday, I was pleased to visit with the students from Central Falls to offer my congratulations for what they have achieved. These students, with the guidance of Mr. Schanck, have learned much about the meaning of our nation and what countless men and women have fought and died to protect. No matter what the outcome of the contest, they have each earned the greatest prize of all: Knowledge.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the presiding officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:14 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to section 1238(b) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106-398) and the order of the House of Wednesday, April 4, 2001, the Speaker on Thursday, April 5, 2001, appointed the following members on the part of the House of Representatives to the United States-China Security Review Commission: Mr. Stephen D. Bryen of Maryland, Ms. June Teufel Dryer of Florida, and Mr. James R. Lilley of Maryland.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 428. An act concerning the participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization.

The message further announced that the House disagrees to the amendment

of the Senate to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 83) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2002, revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2001, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2011, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints Mr. NUSSLE, Mr. SUNUNU, and Mr. SPRATT, as the managers of the conference on the part of the House.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 428. An act concerning the participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-1534. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, a report relative to Voluntary Stationary Source Emission Reduction Programs Into State Implementation Plans; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1535. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, a report entitled "1999/2000 PCB Questions and Answers Manual—Part 4"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1536. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, a report entitled "Improving Air Quality with Economic Incentive Programs"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1537. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standards of Performance for Electric Utility Steam Generating Units for Which Construction is Commenced After September 18, 1978; Standards of Performance for Industrial-Commercial-Industrial Steam Generating Units" (FRL6965-4) received on April 5, 2001; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1538. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Solvent Extraction for Vegetable Oil Production" (FRL6965-5) received on April 5, 2001; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1539. A communication from the Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program, Participation by the District of Columbia and U.S. Insular Territories and Commonwealths, 50 CFR part 80" (RIN1018-

AD 83) received on April 6, 2001; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1540. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; Transportation Conformity: Idaho" (FRL6957-1) received on April 6, 2001; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1541. A communication from the Acting Secretary of the Army, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the navigation study for Ponce de Leon Inlet, Florida; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1542. A communication from the Acting Secretary of the Army, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the navigation improvements for the Port Jersey Channel, Bayonne, New Jersey; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1543. A communication from the Acting Secretary of the Army, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Success Dam, Tule River Basin, California; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1544. A communication from the Acting Secretary of the Army, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Upper Des Plaines River, Illinois; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1545. A communication from the Attorney/Advisor of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1546. A communication from the Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program, Participation by the District of Columbia and U.S. Insular Territories and Commonwealths, 50 CFR part 80" (RIN1018-AB83) received on April 6, 2001; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1547. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Disaster Assistance; Cerro Grande Fire Assistance" (RIN3067-AD12) received on April 6, 2001; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1548. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the designation of acting officer for the position of Associate Director, Mitigation Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1549. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "EPA International Green Buildings Initiative" received on April 11, 2001; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1550. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Gasoline Volatility Requirements for Allegheny County" (FRL6962-3) received on April 11, 2001; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1551. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, a

report entitled "2001 Update of Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Cadmium"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1552. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, a report entitled "Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation Guidance for Operators of Public Water Systems Serving 10,000 or Fewer People"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1553. A communication from the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, a report on licensing activities and regulatory duties; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1554. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Nebraska" (FRL6968-5) received on April 19, 2001; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1555. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; Idaho" (FRL6962-1) received on April 19, 2001; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1556. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Additions to the Final Guidelines for the Certification and Recertification of the Operators of Community and Nontransient Noncommunity Public Water Systems; Final Allocation Methodology for Funding to States for the Operator Certification Expense Reimbursement Grants Program" (FRL6967-3) received on April 19, 2001; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1557. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Ventura County Air Pollution Control District" (FRL6963-1) received on April 19, 2001; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1558. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision to the California State Implementation Plan; Bay Area Air Quality Management District and Imperial County Air Pollution Control District" (FRL6954-8) received on April 19, 2001; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1559. A communication from the Chief of the Division of Scientific Authority, Fish and Wildlife Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes in List of Species in Appendices to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora" (RIN1018-AH63) received on April 18, 2001; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1560. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Post 96 Rate of Progress Plan, Motor Vehicles Emissions Budgets (MVEB) and Contingency Measures for the Houston/Galveston (HGA) Ozone Nonattainment Area" (FRL6969-3) received on April 19, 2001; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.